

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action has been carefully considered. It is respectfully submitted that the issues raised are traversed, being hereinafter addressed with reference to the relevant headings appearing in the Detailed Action section of the Office Action.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8 and 9 as being unpatentable over Schmidt (US Patent Number 6,278,481) in view of Roberts (US Patent Number 5,541,654).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusion.

In order to expedite the allowance of the current application, the Applicant has amended claim 1 with the subject matter of claims 3 and 4, which have subsequently been canceled.

The Examiner rejected the subject matter of claim 4 dependent on claim 3 dependent on claim 1 as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of Roberts. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion.

Schmidt teaches at column 10, lines 26 to 39 an alternate embodiment which uses a CMOS imaging chip which includes an on-board analog-to-digital converter, memory and some processing circuitry. As stated at lines 37 to 39 of column 10 "*...most of the additional circuitry for performing signal processing is eliminated*".

The Examiner has attempted to combine the Automatic gain control 425 with the alternate embodiment discussed above to show that claim 4 is obvious in view of Schmidt and Roberts.

Clearly, this is not permitted as Schmidt clearly states that Figure 5 is an alternate embodiment and thus the use of the alternate embodiment is an additional sense is clearly not taught or suggest by Schmidt in view of Roberts.

Further, Schmidt teaches at column 9, lines 47 to 53 that the AGC performs pixel processing and the data is then converted to digital pixel data for storage. Thus, Schmidt teaches a AGC which performs processing on analog signals.

However, in contrast, the alternate embodiment teaches a CMOS imaging chip which generates digital signals, as is clear in Figure 5 and stated at column 10, lines 26 to 39.

Therefore, there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the alternate embodiments in the manner which the Examiner has done.

Additionally, referring to currently amended claim 1, this claim requires a plurality of analog signal processors that are configured to carry out enhancement processes on analog signals generated by the active pixel sensor array. It is clear that Schmidt in view of Roberts fails to teach a plurality of analog signal processors that are configured to carry out enhancement processes on analog signals generated by the active pixel sensor array, as CMOS imaging chip of Schmidt in view of Roberts generates digital data.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's claim rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance of all the claims presently under examination.

Very respectfully,

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